

[including] automatically adding each one of the channels [in] to a favorite channel list, wherein such adding does not require user intervention.

26. (No Change) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein identifying is achieved by matching one or more event sub-themes from an EPG content database to the user-specified theme.

27. (No Change) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein identifying is achieved by matching one or more generic event sub-themes from an EPG content database to the user-specified theme.

28. (No Change) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the channels identified during the step of identifying depend on an update frequency of the EPG content database and a number of time slots included in the favorite channels list.

29. (No Change) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein identifying is achieved by matching one or more words in a event description from the EPG content database to the user-specified theme.

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on September 4, 2002, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 8, 19, 24, and 25 are amended; as a result, claims 1-12 and 19-29 remain pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-12 and 19-29 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein (US 6,002,394) in view of Kostreski et al. (US 5,734,589). Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, 19, 24, and 25, and now believes that all pending claims are patentable over the cited art for reasons including those stated below.

Claims 1-7

Neither Schein nor Kostreski teach or suggest all elements of claims 1-7. For example, claims 1-7 recite a computerized system “wherein the computerized system identifies the logical channels showing an event of the user specified theme and automatically adds each of the logical channels to the favorite channel list without user intervention” (as a result of Applicant’s amendment to claim 1). Schein does not teach or suggest such a system. Schein discloses favorite channel lists, theme data structures, and theme searching, but Schein does not teach or suggest a system that identifies the logical channels showing an event of the user specified theme and **automatically adds** each of the logical channels to the favorite channel list **without user intervention**. For example, in Column 11, Schein states:

When the viewer initiates a search for a particular type of show, for example a comedy movie, each channel is inspected and theme IDs of each show listed are compared to theme IDs stored in the comedy entry of the theme sub-category table corresponding to the movie primary category entry. Information about shows with matching theme IDs is **stored in a theme search data structure in a user interface local buffer . . . [S]hows for the selected category are then displayed** in time order.

Column 11, lines 20-22 and 45-46 (emphasis added). In Column 16, Schein states:

When the viewer selects a program as a favorite, for example, he or she will have the option of designating the criteria or reason(s) that the program is a favorite (i.e., actor, director, etc.). The computer will include a processor and suitable software for automatically searching the database for other programs having the same criteria. The processor will automatically **place the programs that include the designated criteria into the selection window and provide visual indication of each program in the matrix of cells in the program guide.**

Column 16, lines 25-34 (emphasis added). In Column 18, Schein states that “[p]referably, the guide will be capable of creating personalized TV listings with **search and sort** features . . . that allow the viewer to **call up** favorite programming choices based on categories, such as channel, day, actor, movie genre or other desired categories.” *Column 18, lines 54-58 (emphasis added).* Thus, Schein does not teach or suggest automatically adding channels to the favorite channel list without user intervention, as recited in claims 1-7.

Kostreski also does not teach or suggest all elements of claims 1-7. Kostreski is directed to dynamic programming of a digital entertainment terminal, but Kostreski does not teach or suggest a system having the identification and automatic addition functionalities recited in claims 1-7.

Thus, for these and other reasons, neither Schein nor Kostreski (alone or in combination) teach or suggest all elements of claims 1-7.

Claims 8-12

Neither Schein nor Kostreski teach or suggest all elements of claims 8-12. For example, claims 8-12 recite a computerized system "wherein the computerized system identifies the logical channels showing an event of the user specified theme and automatically adds such logical channels to the favorite channel list without user intervention" (as a result of Applicant's amendment to claim 8). Schein does not teach or suggest such a system. As argued above, Schein does not teach or suggest identifying channels showing an event of a user specified theme and **automatically adding** such channels to a favorite channel list **without user intervention**. Kostreski also does not teach or suggest such a system (also as argued above).

Thus, for these and other reasons, neither Schein nor Kostreski (alone or in combination) teach or suggest all elements of claims 8-12.

Claims 19-23

Neither Schein nor Kostreski teach or suggest all elements of claims 19-23. For example, claims 19-23 recite "a method of using a computerized system to dynamically manage favorite channel lists relating to a user specified theme," wherein the method includes "automatically adding each one of the channels to a favorite channel list, wherein such adding does not require user intervention" (as a result of Applicant's amendment to claim 19). Schein does not teach or suggest such a method. Schein does not teach or suggest dynamically managing favorite channel lists relating to a user specified theme or **automatically adding** each one of the channels to a favorite channel list (wherein such adding **does not require user intervention**). Kostreski also does not teach or suggest such a method.

Thus, for these and other reasons, neither Schein nor Kostreski (alone or in combination) teach or suggest all elements of claims 19-23.

Claim 24

Neither Schein nor Kostreski teach or suggest all elements of claim 24. For example, amended claim 24 recites a computer having “a plurality of computer instructions . . . for . . . identifying one or more channels showing an event of a user specified theme and automatically adding each one of the channels to a favorite channel list without user intervention.” Schein does not teach or suggest such a computer. Schein does not teach or suggest identifying one or more channels showing an event of a user specified theme and **automatically adding** each one of the channels to a favorite channel list **without user intervention**. Kostreski also does not teach or suggest such a computer.

Thus, for these and other reasons, neither Schein nor Kostreski (alone or in combination) teach or suggest all elements of claim 24.

Claims 25-29

Neither Schein nor Kostreski teach or suggest all elements of claims 25-29. For example, claims 25-29 recite a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon, wherein the instructions include “automatically adding each one of the channels to a favorite channel list, wherein such adding does not require user intervention” (as a result of Applicant’s amendment to claim 25). Schein does not teach or suggest such a computer readable medium. Schein does not teach or suggest **automatically adding** each one of the channels to a favorite channel list (wherein such adding **does not require user intervention**). Kostreski also does not teach or suggest such a computer readable medium.

Thus, for these and other reasons, neither Schein nor Kostreski (alone or in combination) teach or suggest all elements of claims 25-29.

Summary

Thus, for these and other reasons, Applicant submits that neither Schein nor Kostreski teach or suggest all elements of claims 1-12 and 19-29, as a result of Applicant’s amendments.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 USC § 103(a).

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-371-2169) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0439.

Respectfully submitted,

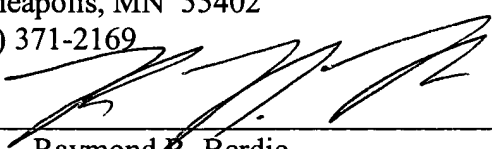
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Box AF, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 28 day of October, 2002.

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